

John Parke Custis to George Washington, August 30, 1770, 19th-century 19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.¹

[A Copy.]

August 30 1770

MY DEAR SIR

I have sent you according to your directions patterns of all Mr. Stewarts beaver Coating with the lowest ready money prices fixed to each of them, which I have directed the boy to leave with Mr. Ramsay. When I crossed the River I saw Mr. Mason who told me that Mr. Christian had been at his house, and told him that he was to teach 4 days at our house the next time;² therefore I should be glad, if convenient, to know before the time, whether I must come over, & likewise whether I shall have the lace taken off my green coat, I think it had better be turned by which means it will serve me very well this winter. I have nothing new to tell you of. Mr. Boucher has sent your letter by George Buchanan. My love to Mama & sister, and my compliments to all who enquire after me.

With the greatest respect Yr. obedt. Son JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

1 Born in 1755, died November 5, 1781.

2 There are several entries in Washington's journal for 1770 showing that the young people from time to time assembled at the different houses in the neighborhood to attend a dancing class, conducted by Mr. Christian.

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"May 9. Mr. Christian danced here, who, besides his Scholars, and those already mentioned to be here. Mrs. Peake & Neice Mr. Massey—Mr. Piper & Mr. Adams dined here." "10. Mr. Christian and some of his Scholars went away this afternoon." "18. Patsy Custis & Milly Posey went to Colo. Mason's to the Dancing School." "Sept. 12. Mr. Christian & his Scholars came here to Dancing."